UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/447
S/1994/1108
28 September 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 148
THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES IN CROATIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 28 September 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you concerning the letter of Mr. Mate Granić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, addressed to you on 16 September 1994 (A/49/393-S/1994/1062) and, upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following.

The consistent policy of peace pursued by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with a view to resolving the crisis in the territory of the former Yugoslavia through political negotiations, coupled with the concrete steps it has undertaken, provide ample proof that the charges against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia advanced by the Croatian authorities that it represents "a new source of increasing instability in the region" are totally baseless.

The claims of the alleged military cooperation between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Srpska, that is, the Republic of Serbian Krajina, are wholly unsubstantiated. The reports of the Secretary-General confirmed long ago that not a single member of the Army of Yugoslavia is outside of its territory. Therefore, the allegations that military actions around Bihać, Županja and Dubrovnik are being planned and coordinated in Belgrade with the participation of the units of the Army of Yugoslavia are absolutely absurd.

On the other hand, unambiguous proofs are very much in evidence that the members of the regular army of the Republic of Croatia are deployed in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina and that they do take part in the military operations.

The concern expressed by the authorities of the Republic of Croatia for the refugees in the areas affected by armed conflicts is understandable. However, it should be recalled that Croatia has recently refused, even under the threat of arms, to provide refuge for the thousands of refugees that fled the areas engulfed by inter-Muslim conflicts who ultimately found shelter in the Republic of Serbian Krajina.

It is not clear what is the basis for the claims of the Croatian authorities that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia disregards borders. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has on a number of occasions clearly stated that it had no territorial claims towards any country. On the other hand, the units of the Croatian army participate in the operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and have committed incursions in the territories under the control of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

To question the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's commitment to sever political and economic ties with the Republic of Srpska is also unwarranted, as has been confirmed by the reports of the Co-Chairmen of the Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will continue to implement that decision consistently.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia does not have any intention to annex any entity or part of a territory, including those under UNPROFOR control, which Croatia quite unjustifiably calls "occupied territories". On the other hand, though not formally, Croatia effectively incorporated a part of the former Bosnia and Herzegovina - the area of western Herzegovina - into its legal system.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 148, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.